

# VFW Applying for Scholarships Tutorial

## 1 This is the VFW Flyer

**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

2024-2025 COMPETITION

**PATRIOT'S PEN AND  
VOICE OF  
DEMOCRACY**

Post 1503

"VFW made it possible  
for me to go to college."  
- Rachel 2020 Prize Winner

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**  
**OCTOBER 31, 2024**

**ELIGIBILITY**  
Students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (for which the application has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity.

**PATRIOT'S PEN**

- Open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31st deadline
- Submit a 300 – 400-word
- This year's theme is, "My Voice in America's Democracy?"
- Essay National Prize is currently \$5,000

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY**

- Open to students in grades 9-12 enrolled by Oct. 31st deadline
- Submit a 3–5-minute audio and written essay
- This year's theme is, "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"

bit.ly/4aIn91d

bit.ly/4bDvI4k

## 2 Access the VFW Scholarship using the ScholarsApp Platform:

- Scan the QR code provided in the VFW flyer.
- Alternatively, copy the link provided and paste it into your web browser to navigate directly to the specific scholarship page.

*(Instruction on how to use the QR code and link at the bottom)*

# PATRIOT'S PEN AND VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

## Post 1503

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**OCTOBER 31, 2024**

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QR CODE

[bit.ly/4aIn91d](https://bit.ly/4aIn91d)

# PATRIOT'S PEN AND VOICE OF DEMOCRACY Post 1503

"VFW made it possible  
for me to go to college."  
- Rachel 2020 Prize Winner

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**OCTOBER 31, 2024**

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LINK

[bit.ly/4aIn91d](https://bit.ly/4aIn91d)

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After using the QR code or the link you'll land on this page

Click "Qualify" to begin the application process.

## VFW - Patriot's Pen - Virginia - District 10 - Post 1503

📅 10/31/24 CST    💰 0 - 5,000

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 73,000 students who participated last year in this contest. **What Is the Theme?** VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2024-2025 theme is: **"My Voice in America's Democracy?"** The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition. Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and National level. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. **The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.** All entries are submitted at the Post level. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition). **Eligibility: Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students** enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed in the National contest are ineligible.) **Contest Rules:**

- You must write your own essay. The essay must be the contestant's original work and product of the contestant's own thinking.
- Use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed.
- Essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 words max). Every word is counted.
- **In no way may the contestants identify themselves within their essay** (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.)
- Do not put your name on your essay

### Judging Criteria:

- **Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:** You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate that you have researched the issue extensively.
- **Theme development is worth 35 points:** Answer all relevant facts about the theme, such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.
- **Clarity of Ideas is worth 35 points:** Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

Message

Qualify



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Students that have an existing login with Scholar's App can navigate to <https://scholarsapp.com/login> and login with your email and password

The screenshot shows the 'Log in' page. At the top, the title 'Log in' is displayed. Below it are two input fields: 'Email' and 'Password'. The 'Password' field has a red eye icon to toggle visibility. Below the fields are two links: 'Remember me' (with an unchecked checkbox) and 'Forgot password?'. A prominent blue 'Log in' button is centered below these links. Underneath the button, there is a link for 'Don't have an account? Sign up' and a link for 'California Privacy Policy'. Further down, there is a section for 'Bypass Password Login' with the instruction '(Repeat this process every time you want to log in using this bypass.)' and a grey 'Password-Less Login' button.

7

If you do not have an existing ScholarsApp account

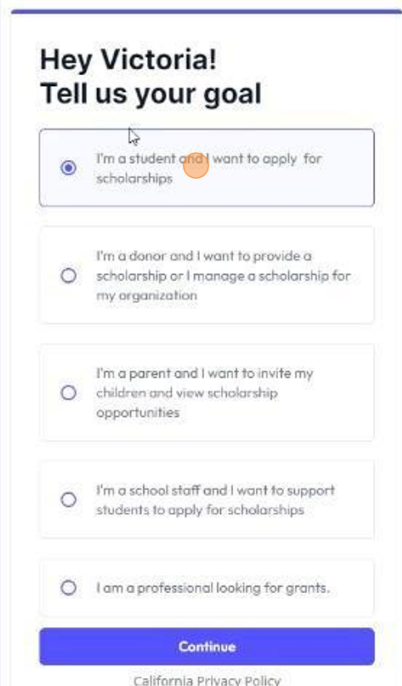
Navigate to <https://scholarsapp.com/login?m=signup> and create your account

Enter your email address, create a password, agree to the terms of service and privacy policy, and click "Continue."

The screenshot shows the 'Sign up' page. At the top, the title 'Sign up' is displayed. Below it are three input fields: 'First name', 'Last name', and 'Email'. A green callout box with a white exclamation mark icon contains the text: 'We recommend you use a personal email instead of using your School's or Institution's email address. That way we guarantee you receive Scholar's App's email notifications.' Below the 'Email' field is a 'Password' field with a red eye icon. Underneath the password field is a checkbox labeled 'I agree to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy'. A grey 'Continue' button is centered below the checkbox. Below the button, there is a link for 'Have an account? Log in' and a link for 'California Privacy Policy'. Further down, there is a section for 'Bypass Password Login' with the instruction '(Repeat this process every time you want to log in using this bypass.)' and a grey 'Password-Less Login' button.

## 8 Specifying Your Role:

- Select that you are a student wanting to apply for scholarships and click “Continue.”
- If a parent is signing up on behalf of a student, create one student account per child.



The screenshot shows a registration form with the following content:

**Hey Victoria!**  
**Tell us your goal**

I'm a student and I want to apply for scholarships.

I'm a donor and I want to provide a scholarship or I manage a scholarship for my organization.

I'm a parent and I want to invite my children and view scholarship opportunities.

I'm a school staff and I want to support students to apply for scholarships.

I am a professional looking for grants.

**Continue**

California Privacy Policy

9 You will provide your birth date, phone number, address and parent email in your profile.

Once you're done setting up your profile, you will be redirected to the VFW scholarship that you want to apply to.

## 10 Qualifying for the Scholarship:

- Verify that your current grade level matches the scholarship requirements, then click “Submit” to qualify.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

### VFW

10/3

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#### Eligibility: VFW - Patriot's Pen - Virginia - District 10 - Post 1503

Answer questions below to see if you are eligible for this scholarship

I don't know if I qualify

Your current grade level matches one of the following: 2005, 2006 or 2007

I qualify  Nope

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personnel in overseas schools. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed in the National contest are ineligible.)

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11

You can now proceed to the application form.

Click "Apply"

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

### VFW - Patriot's Pen - Virginia - District 10 - Post 1503

Qualified 

10/31/24 CST \$ 0 - 5,000

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Essay(s) Required

Discard Message **Apply**



## 12 Filling Out the Application Form:

- Complete all required fields marked with "Required".
- Provide any additional information requested in the application form.

*(All fields that marked as required are mandatory in order to submit the application)*

### VFW - Patriot's Pen - Virginia - District 10 - Post 1503

Veterans of Foreign Wars 10/31/24 CST

STEP 1 OF 1

#### General

Student Information

First Name

Victoria

Required

M.I.

T

Required

Last Name

Test

Required

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)

03/01/2012

Required

13

Upload necessary documents.

In the upload section, applicant can either drag and drop their documents or upload them by clicking the upload field.

The screenshot shows a form section titled "Photo" with a sub-label "Headshot" and a "Required" tag. Below the title is a blue upload area with the text "Click here to upload the required file" and a "Copy" button. A message below the upload area states "You will be required to provide a photo." An upward-pointing arrow is visible in the top right corner of the section.

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Ensure all required fields are completed; the "Submit Application" button will only be active once all required information is filled out.

The screenshot displays several form fields, each with a "Required" tag: "Signature of Student Participant (Type Name)" with the value "victoria test", "Date" with "7/10/2024", "Parent Signature" (empty), "Signature of Parent/Guardian (Type Name)" with "victoria parent", and another "Date" field with "07/10/2024". At the bottom right, there are two buttons: "Save Application" and "Submit application". The "Submit application" button is highlighted with an orange circle and a mouse cursor, indicating it is active.

15 You can also save your application without submitting if you're not ready.

The image shows a screenshot of a web application form. The form contains several input fields and buttons. At the top, there is a partially visible field. Below it is a 'Date' field with the value '7/10/2024' and a 'Required' label. The next field is 'Parent Signature'. Below that is a 'Signature of Parent/Guardian (Type Name)' field with the value 'victoria parent' and a 'Required' label. At the bottom of the form is another 'Date' field with the value '07/10/2024' and a 'Required' label. At the bottom right of the form, there are two buttons: 'Save Application' and 'Submit application'. The 'Save Application' button is highlighted with an orange circle, and a mouse cursor is pointing at the 'Submit application' button.

## 16 Confirmation:

- Once you submit your application, it will update as "applied" on your main page.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

### VFW - Patriot's Pen - Virginia - District 10 - Post 1503

10/31/24 CST \$ 0 - 5,000

Applied

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Essay(s) Required

View Application

## 17 Confirmation of Application:

- You will receive an email confirmation stating that you have applied to the scholarship.

mail.google.com

Search mail

Active

Google

Compose

Inbox 1

Starred

Snoozed

Sent

Drafts

More

Labels

Get started with Gmail

Customize your inbox

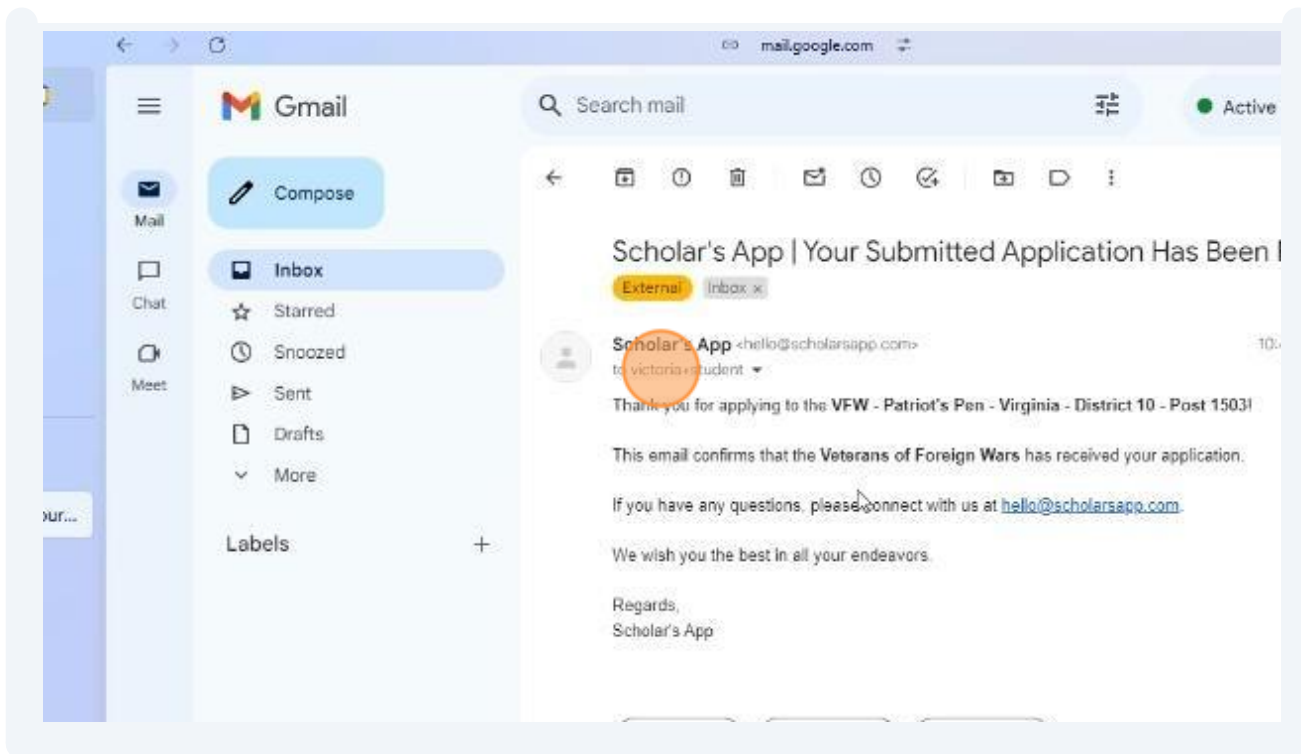
Set a signature

Enable desktop notifications

Scholar's App

Scholar's App | Your Submitted Application Has Been Received - Th... 10:45AM





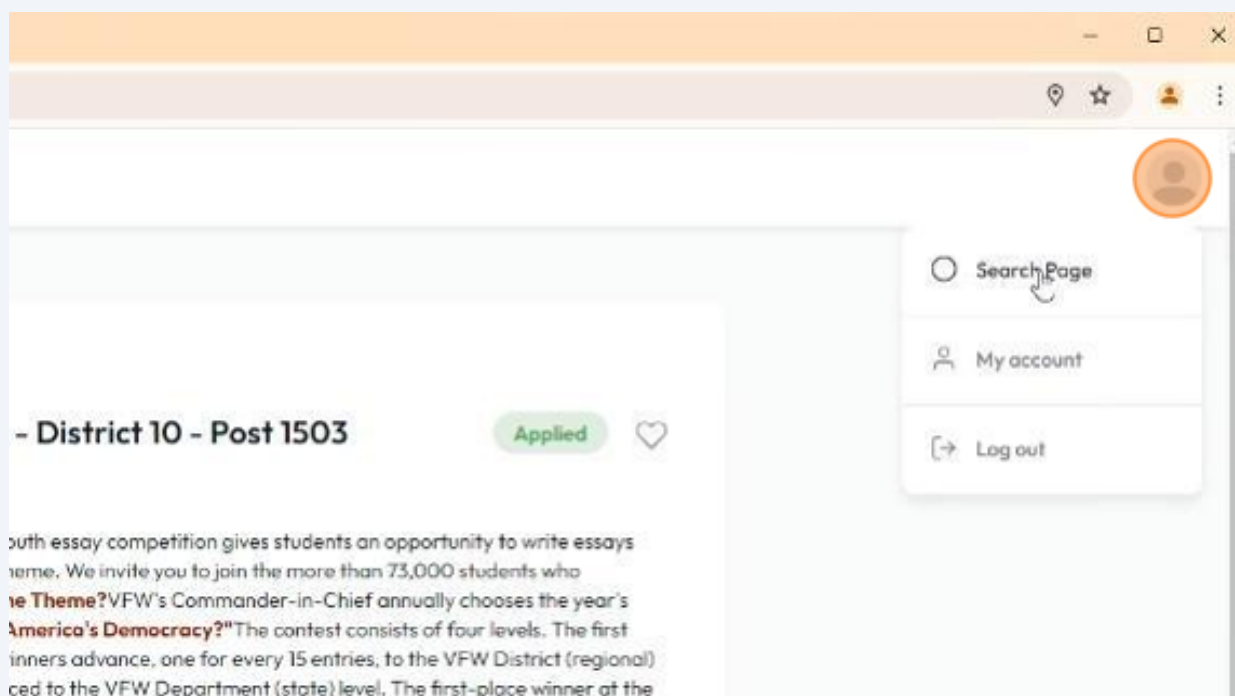
18

You can also verify your application status on the ScholarsApp search page under the "Applied" section.

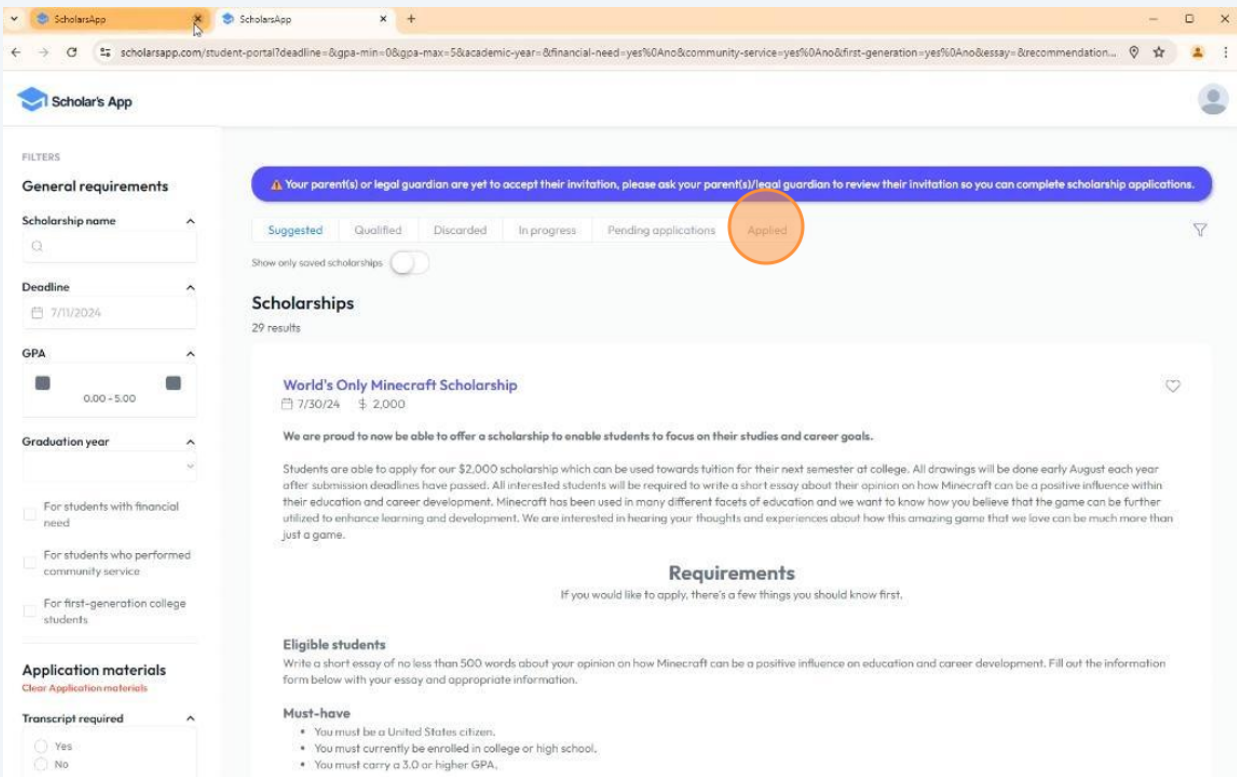
19

Click the human icon on the top right corner of your screen

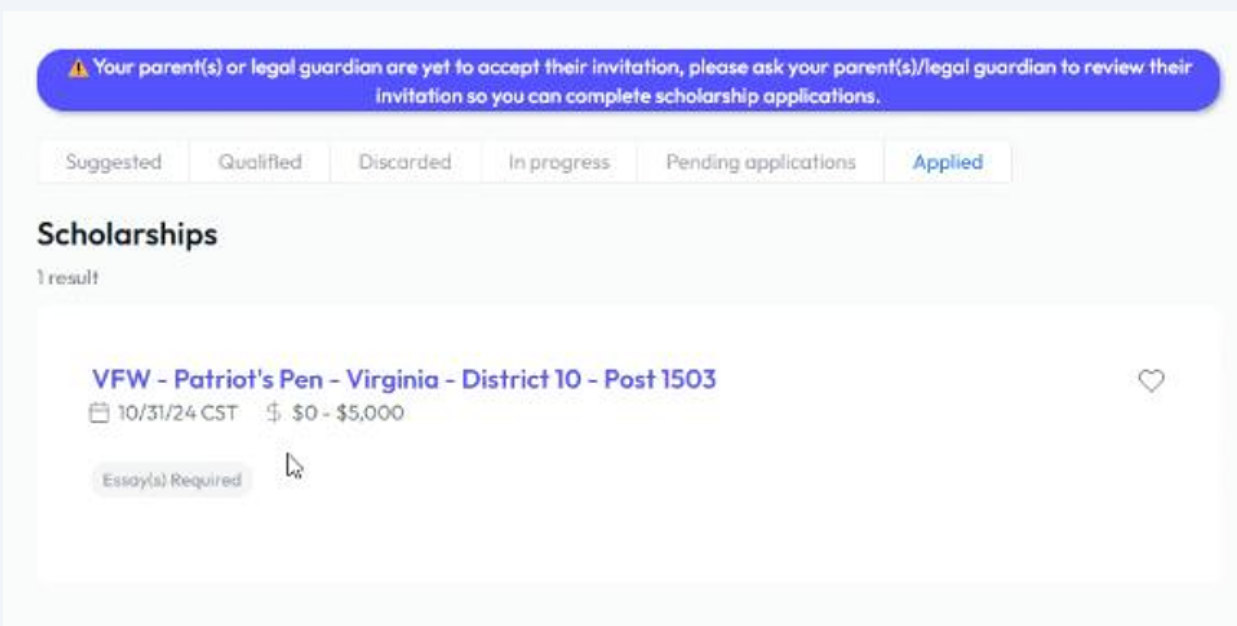
In the dropdown click "Search Page"



20 Click the "Applied" section.



21 On this section you can view scholarships that you applied in ScholarsApp

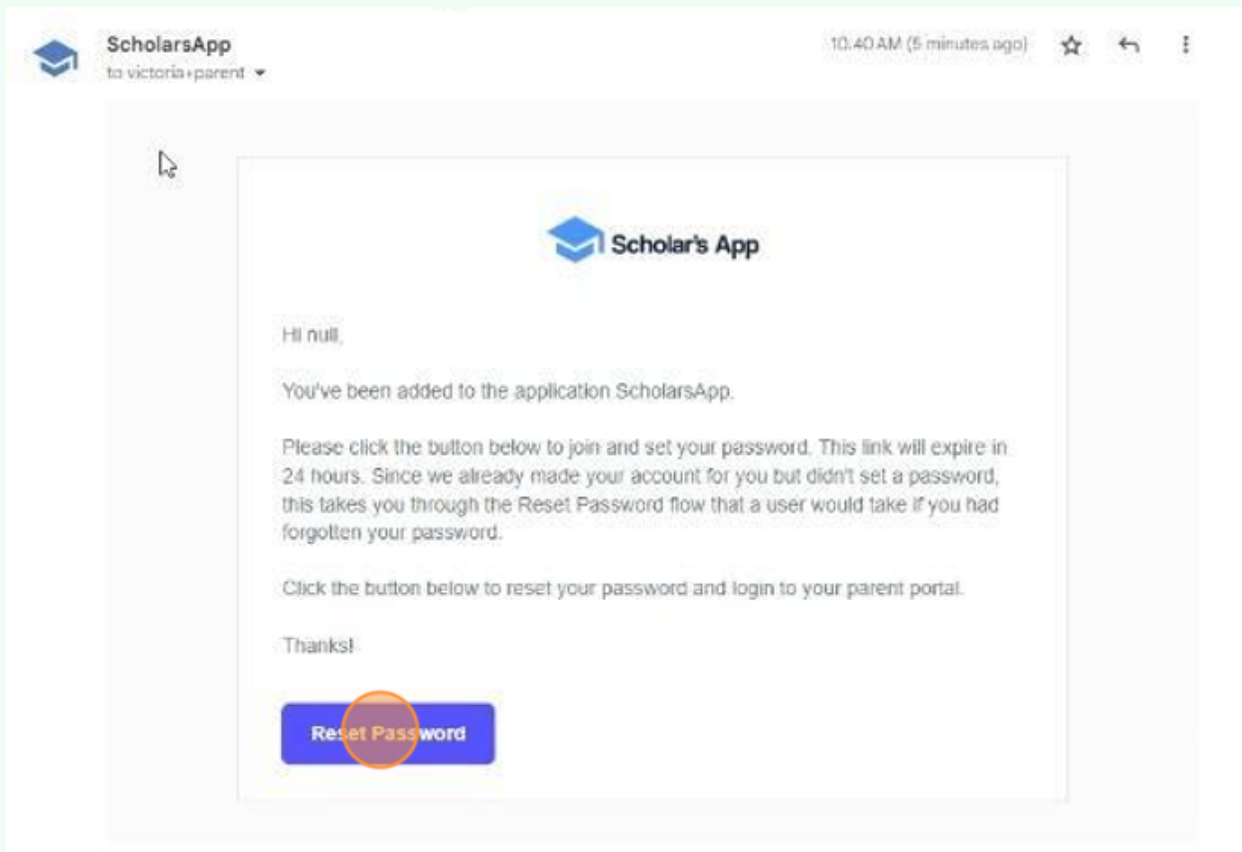




Tip!

### Parent Account Linking:

- Parents will receive an email to link their account to the student's account. Follow the instructions in the email to set up the parent account.



23

By following these steps, you can efficiently apply for scholarships using the ScholarsApp platform.

## Instruction on how to use the QR code or a Link

**24** How to scan QR Code on your mobile phone.

- **Open the camera app on your phone.**
- **Point at the QR Code**
- **Tap the Notification:**
  - A link will appear on your screen. Tap it to open the webpage.



**25** Copy the link provided in the flyer and paste it into your web browser to navigate directly to the specific scholarship page.